

Cothrom Adult Learners' Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1. July 2011

Focus on Jobs in Uist and Barra

At our last meeting, we decided to change the way we did things, and to produce a quarterly newsletter, which would focus on our main concerns, and which could announce these to a wider audience. The issues we discussed were so crucial that everyone present decided they would contribute their own stories.

Our chief concerns

- **issue of finding paid employment locally.**
- **transport, flexible enough to enable getting to and from a workplace**
- **single parents desperately needed work which they could do in**



Inside this issue:

Ann's Story	1
Jane's Story	2
Elaine's Story	2
Georgina's Story	2
Donald's Story	3
Sammie's Story	3
Marie's Story	4

Ann's Story

I work in a Daycare Centre; I have had this job for a year. My next step is to do a Care Level 2 course, so I can study as I work at the same

time. I hope they will either keep me on or I will have to try to get a care job elsewhere, which will not be easy to get, but if I do that

course, it should be easier. Without that certificate it will be even harder for me to get a job in care.





Jane's Story

I am doing work experience at the Claddach Kirkibost Nursery in North Uist.

I have been there since January, working on Fridays. I work with the older ones and we go to P.E. in the mornings at Paible school. In the afternoons we do activities such as making things, arts and crafts. I have started doing my Level 2 SVQ in Childcare. I have started to

learn how to keep children safe.

I also do voluntary work at Craigard on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

I would like to get qualified and do full-time paid work in a nursery

Elaine's story

A major problem is that of finding work that will fit into school hours. Also, if this is not available, there is the difficulty of finding appropriate childcare to allow parents to work beyond these hours and earn enough for even basic items. . No after school clubs here! Transport needs to be much more flexible to let us get to and from any job. I do voluntary work at

the Thrift Shop, and attended the AGM, where I got a certificate for my voluntary service. Here at Cothrom, I have passed my Level 2 in English and am continuing my Numeracy. I did my PC passport three years ago.



The main aim of community learning and development is to help individuals tackle real issues in their lives, through community action and community – based learning.

Georgina's story

I would really like to get a permanent part-time job, from next year. My boyfriend is hoping to get a car and he will be able to take me to work. I would like to work in a restaurant. At the moment I am on a placement at Stepping

Stones, helping out in the kitchen. I prefer working doing dishes to waitressing. Eventually I would like to learn catering and get qualifications. At Cothrom I am working hard to prepare for this by improving my Maths, English and ICT.

Donald's Story

I am a former History and Politics graduate from Strathclyde University, who had hoped to do teacher training. But due to family circumstances, I had to return to the island. I am a keen member of the Comann Eachdraidh and advocate for the future of Nunton Steadings. I am studying computing skills at Cothrom as a beginner. I

would eventually like to own my own laptop and work from home, writing and free-lancing, in order to combine this with crofting.

It's useful to have these skills- you need them for work today. And regular work is hard to find on the island, apart from the odd, seasonal jobs!



An anonymous comment

I have almost completed a computer course at Cothrom and have bought my own laptop. This has really helped me, in so many ways. But coming to Cothrom

has been helpful in other ways too! It's good to get out and meet people, and I want there to be another course to do now, so I can keep coming to Cothrom!



Sammie's Story

I am studying Computing and Numeracy hoping to get qualifications, so I can get back to work. Having the nursery for my one year old and

my two and a half year old has made this a real possibility for me. Unfortunately, here there is not much choice where jobs are concerned. I am

looking to work in Hospitality, preferably in one of the better hotels. Mainly this can be seasonal, but some stay open all year round. At least the bars usually do!

Cothrom Ltd
Ormiclate
South Uist
HS8 5TH

www.cothrom.net

enquiries@cothrom.net

Marie's Story

Since 2004, I have been living on Barra, but originally I am from the Czech Republic. I came here to learn English and to work, but this has all changed as I now have a little boy who will be three in July. I have done many different jobs; at the fish-factory, helping my friend with baking/catering at the airport, at the Co-op, evening-work in a bar, cleaning for self-catering and cockle-picking. I will try almost anything! Currently I had found work as a relief Clerical School Assistant, but because of the difficulty of finding childcare, I have not been able to do this. I have studied ESOL Int. 2 at Cothrom and ECDL through Lews Castle College. Now I am going for an interview for a UHI Business Course.

Once Again- Our Priorities

- finding paid employment locally.
- transport, flexible enough to enable getting to and from a workplace
- single parents desperately need work which they could do in

Future Calf Meetings

2011

September 5th
October 3rd
November 7th
December 5th

2012

February 6th
March 5th
April 2nd
May 7th
June 4th
July 2nd

